



Bayside Historical Society

June 2026 Newsletter

Preserving and Honoring the Past at the Lawrence Graveyard

On Saturday, May 16, a dedicated group of volunteers worked beside gravestone conservator, John Griffin to restore gravestones at the historic Lawrence Family Cemetery in Bayside to their former glory. Volunteers included Boy Scout Troop 49 and many interested community members.

Mr. Griffin guided the group through an organic cleaning process which removes many years of soot, mold, lichen, and mineral stains. As each participant sprayed down, then gently brushed and rinsed the stones, the results were remarkable! Many stones went from being entirely unreadable to completely clear. Before and after photos will soon be available on the BHS website.

Since 1967, when BHS founder Joseph Brown saved the Cemetery from ruin and led the efforts that resulted in its designation as a NYC Landmark, BHS has lovingly cared for this beautiful historic resting place and preserved the memory of those interred there. Future restoration and maintenance efforts at the Cemetery will include resetting and repairing a number of gravestones.



Happening This June



Heirloom Tea at The Castle

Sat., June 6th | 2–4:30 PM
BHS Castle

At this elegant gathering in the Castle ballroom, guests will enjoy an elegant British-style tea featuring delicate tea sandwiches, delectable sweets, aromatic teas, and delightful conversation with friends.

This popular event has now sold out. Please stay tuned for future announcements of our next tea event at The Castle!

[Learn More](#)



Second Sunday Castle Tours

Sun., June 14th | 1 PM & 2 PM
BHS Castle

Reserve your spot for this month's free guided tour of The Castle and its exhibitions, conducted by the BHS staff and volunteers. There will be two tours offered; each tour lasts 45 minutes, with the first starting at 1pm and the second at 2pm.

Come explore this architectural treasure in Bayside and learn more about its fascinating history.

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9th Annual Independence Day Celebration at Fort Totten Park

Thurs., June 18th | 6–9:30 PM
Fort Totten Park

The Bayside Historical Society is hosting the 9th Annual Independence Day Celebration on Thursday, June 18th, with a free concert and fireworks display by Grucci in Fort Totten Park. This year's celebration is extra special as we gear up for America's 250th birthday! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics for an evening of community fun!



Mrs. Benedict Arnold Would Like A Word — The Story Of Peggy Shippen Arnold

Thurs., June 25th | 7:30–9 PM
BHS Castle

Join historian Char Weigel at the Castle as she brings Peggy Shippen Arnold's story to life through real historical accounts, secret correspondence, and Revolutionary War espionage. Learn about the mystery, scandal, and intrigue behind America's most infamous traitor... and the woman who may have helped shape history from the shadows.

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Coming Up in July 2026



Queensboro Dance Festival: Performances at Fort Totten Park Sun., July 26th | 3–4:30 PM

The Queensboro Dance Festival's 2026 Summer Tour will feature over 30 outdoor and indoor events across 15 Queens neighborhoods, including free shows, parties, and classes! Join them on July 26 at the BHS Castle for an exciting indoor dance event, featuring performances by The Kingdom Dance Co., Allpayana danza tradicional ecuatoriana, Kinding Sindaw, Flamenco Latino, Nā Pua Mai Ka Lani Nūioka, and Neela Zareen.

Admission is free, but space is limited. RSVPs are required to guarantee seating. Please RSVP on our website.

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Take a Look Back...

Silent film star, Norma Talmadge (1893-1957), seen here on Little Neck Bay with her pet dog, married movie producer Joseph Schenck (1876-1961) in 1916 and together they spent their summers in what was known as the Ridenour Estate. The Talmadge sisters, Norma and Constance, were two of the most recognizable faces of early film. A 1921 Moving Picture World poll listed the sisters as the first and second most popular movie actresses in the country. Joseph Schenck worked with the actresses to form the Norma Talmadge Film Corporation in 1916 and the Constance Talmadge Film Company in 1919. Natalie Talmadge worked as a

secretary for her sisters and appeared in small film roles. She married Buster Keaton at the waterfront estate, located at 35-15 222nd Street in Bayside, in 1921.



Bayside Historical Society | 208 Totten Avenue - Fort Totten | Bayside, NY 11359 US

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